

Frequently Asked Questions

Learn more about the BQE Central Project.

What is happening with the BQE?

NYC DOT is proposing major repairs through rehabilitation to BQE Central. This is the section from just north of Atlantic Avenue to Sands Street.

What is the goal of the project?

The goal is to make BQE Central safer, extend the life of the structure, reduce repeated short-term repairs, and keep an important travel and freight route functioning.

Will the project make the highway bigger?

No. The proposed project is focused on repairing the existing highway. It would not add new highway capacity. The highway will remain two lanes, as it is currently.

How long would construction last?

Construction is currently expected to begin in 2029 and finish by 2040. The schedule will be studied and updated as the project moves forward.

What will things look like during construction?

Temporary bypass structures would be built near parts of the existing highway. The two-level bypass required for triple cantilever rehabilitation would travel over Furman Street and be no higher than the existing Queens-bound level. North of Columbia Heights, the current design shows a Queens-bound bypass that will go over the existing BQE and the approach to the Brooklyn Bridge. Traffic would use these bypasses while repair work happens. NYC DOT continues to review alternate design options at this stage of the project. Regardless, the bypasses would be removed after construction is complete.

What disruptions should people expect?

The project could affect traffic, parking, noise, air quality, sidewalks, bike routes, parks, views, and access during construction. These issues will be studied in the environmental review. Throughout construction, mitigation measures will be implemented, and NYC DOT will provide a community liaison and ongoing engagement opportunities to address any concerns.

What about the Brooklyn Heights Promenade?

The Promenade is part of the triple cantilever structure. The project is intended to repair and protect the structure, including the Promenade above the highway. During construction, NYC DOT will maintain access to portions of the Promenade at all times, to the extent feasible.

What about other nearby parks?

During construction, NYC DOT will maintain access to Squibb Park, Hillside Dog Park, and the Harry Chapin Playground to the extent feasible. Harry Chapin Playground will be reconstructed in conjunction with the Columbia Heights overpass rehabilitation.

Why not do a bigger transformation now?

The can has been kicked down the road for too long. The result is serious deterioration that can no longer be managed through temporary fixes. We must pivot to a shorter-term rehabilitation plan needed to keep the structure safe and stable, while continuing to consider longer term plans for the BQE corridor.

How much will this project cost?

NYC DOT's top priority is always safety. The highway is a critical regional connector, and we need to invest in a state of good repair. Rehabilitation is estimated to cost \$3.5-\$4 billion, a cost that will be refined through the environmental review process, as well as through continued project design stages. The City currently has \$1.6 billion allocated to this project in the Capital Plan and will allocate additional necessary funding.

Will there be public benefits?

The main benefit is a safer and more reliable structure that will last for approximately 40 years. Keeping the BQE open and safe ensures that more trucks are kept off of local streets. Where feasible, NYC DOT will consider local street improvements near BQE Central. The environmental review and public comments will help shape that work.

How can I provide input?

You can comment during the CEQR public scoping period. You can also attend public meetings, visit the project website, sign up for updates, and take part in outreach events before formal public meetings. Visit the project website to learn more.

To learn more, visit:

nyc.gov/bqe

Or scan the QR code:



Frequently Asked Questions

Learn more about the BQE Central Project.

Isn't this project just another short-term fix for what should be a comprehensive, corridor-wide project?

This project provides the urgent rehabilitation needed to keep the structure safe and stable while keeping the door open to more transformative changes in the future. The BQE Central Project will protect the highway structures, including the triple cantilever, for approximately 40 years. This project addresses the structure's immediate needs in a comprehensive way, while leaving the door open for future decision-making on a more comprehensive project.

Will there be parkland alienation or a need for ULURP as a requirement for this project?

Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) will be required for the BQE Central Project. There is a portion of parkland within the bounds of this project that would need to go through the New York State parkland alienation (transfer of ownership or changing the use of) and NYC ULURP processes.

The Brooklyn Marine Terminal (BMT) project is happening adjacent to the BQE Central Project. How will this work impact that project or vice versa?

We know the BMT development will shape the area's transportation needs for decades to come, which is why we have taken a comprehensive and coordinated approach with New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). We continue to work closely with our NYCEDC partners to ensure that both the BQE project and the BMT plan move forward in harmony to maximize benefits for the neighborhood and the city as a whole.

The BMT project is directly impacted by the BQE at Atlantic Avenue. What will happen to the on- and off-ramps as part of the BQE Central Project?

The on- and off-ramps to the BQE at Atlantic Avenue will not be closed to facilitate the BQE Central Project. Closing the ramps is not feasible as part of a City-led project at this time. Future decisions to close the ramps would require federal-level intervention and environmental review. Given the pressing need for repairs of the cantilever structure, the City has decided to move forward with the BQE Central Project as currently designed.

To learn more, visit:

nyc.gov/bqe

Or scan the QR code:

